(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The policy of Government of India on the development of private sector power projects is equally applicable to all projects. No relaxations are proposed to be given to the independent power producers setting up projects in Maharashtra and the National Capital territory of Delhi.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise

Introduction of Palace on Wheels between Mumbai and Goa

2603. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Corporation has taken a decision to introduce "Palace on Wheels" luxury train between Mumbai and Goa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said luxury train is proposed to be operated by a private party;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the terms and conditions of the agreement signed between the Konkan Railway Corporation and the said private parity?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Konkan Railway has no proposal of introducing a 'Palace on Wheel' train. However, a tourist train between Mumbai and Goa is planned.

(b) The tourist train is proposed to be a daily service between Mumbai and Goa to cater principally to foreign and domestic tourist traffic. The train is proposed to have two classes viz. Executive A.C. Chair Car and General Chair Car and other pantry and dining facilities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The party under consideration is M/s. Patil Tours & Travels Pvt. Ltd., belonging to Patil Group of Industries with its Corporate Head Office at 205 & 206, 2nd Floor, Amarchand Sharma Complex, S.P. Road, Secunderabad. However, they have failed to deposit the security deposit within the stipulated period and the matter is under correspondence.

(e) The terms and conditions of agreement signed between M/s. Patil Tours & Travels (P) Ltd., and Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., are enclosed as Statement

Statement

1. The entire cost of construction, procurement of rake including spares will be borne by the operator.

2. The Corporation shall provide all facilities necessary for operation of train, such as track, signalling, station premises, locomotives, telecom, train crews, access to and from platform, halt/stabling facilities at stations, watering and maintenance facilities.

3. In case of accidents involving the operation of Luxury train, the corporation shall provide all emergency services as is normally made available for any other train. However, the cost incurred on this account as computed by the Corporation will be reimbursed by the operator.

4. The overhauling of coaches, and associated equipments will be done by the operator at his own cost.

5. The operator will be responsible to provide all services and amenities to passengers of Tourist Train, such as catering on board as well as on ground, house keeping, including provision of linen, Air-conditioning, drinking water, special lighting and others including telecom facilities in working order.

6. The operator shall be solely responsible for his contractual and statutory obligations towards passengers under the consumer protection act or any other law that is applicable.

7. The operator shall make his own arrangement for designing, printing and selling of tickets directly or by appointing agents in India or abroad. The tariff of the package tour shall be fixed by the operator.

8. The operator shall be responsible for maintenance of interior furnishing and security of the train.

9. The operator shall pay to the Corporation every month an amount calculated at 12% of gross monthly payment. In addition the operator shall pay to the corporation haulage charges @ Rs. 2.80 lakhs for long trip between Mumbai and Goa. The haulage charges will be subject to revision bianually by the corporation.

10. The operator shall comply with the payment of Wages Act 1936, Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition Act 1936), Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition Act, 1970) and Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition Rule,' 1971)

11. The corporation reserves the right to suspend the services or terminate the agreement without notice and without any compensation for :

(i) persistent default in payment.

(ii) breach by the contractor and infringement of obligations.

(iii) any unlawful activity or public nuisance or ommission conduct by act on Rly. permises directly/ indirectly by the operator or his agents, subletting or assigning without prior approval of the corporation.

The contract will be awarded for a minimum period of 15 months. This will be further extended. However, no exclusive operation rights have been given to the operator. As and when the need arises, Luxury Train will be introduced by the Corporation.

Gauge Conversion

2604. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government of start the work of gauge conversion between Surendranagar-Bhavnagar, Dhola-Dassa-Mahuva;

(b) whether the IRCON is going to execute the above conversion work; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The modalities of funding of the project are being finalised.

(b) No final decision has been taken in this regard so far.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Closure of Power House

2605. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board issued notice for closure of some power houses due to spreading of pollution by them;

(b) if so, whether two units of Panki power house i.e. Hardua Gunj and Tanda Paricha Power houses are also under threat;

(c) whether the Electricity Boards do not have adequate money to install pollution control equipment in their power generation units;

(d) whether a unit of Unchahaar Power house is completely closed down whereas I.D. Fan of other unit is being operated on only 110 Megawatt Capacity due to technical fault in I.D. Fan blades thereby aggravating the power crisis further in Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government to deal with the above situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have issued directions to 28 coal based thermal stations in the various States for preparation of a time bound Action Plan for compliance with the emission limits from the generating units. The Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) have also received a notice for compliance with environmental standards within specified time schedule. However, no notice for closure of power houses has been received. The two units of Panki Power house are presently closed due to technical reasons as well as on account of non installation of electrostatic precipitators. Paricha and Tanda thermal power stations have been provided with electrostatic precipitators and their units are in operation. In Harduaganj thermal power station available units are running.

(c) Some of the State Electricity Boards do not have adequate funds to instal pollution control equipments in their power generating units.

(d) and (e) During April, 1977. Unchahaar Unit 2 was taken under planned shut down for annual overhaul and Boiler Licence renewal. The other unit had developed some technical problem in I.D. Fan which was attended during 19.4.97 to 21.4.97. Both the units are fully operational at present and have operated during July, 1997 at 78.1% PLF.

Functioning of Computers at Azamgarh

2606. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether computers have been installed at Azamgarh railway station in Uttar Pradesh for reservations;

(b) if so, the reasons for not starting reservation by computer till now; and

(c) the time by which computer reservation is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Provision of computerised reservation facilities at Azamgarh railway station in Uttar Pradesh is an approved work in the Annual Plan for 1997-98. Work is in progress for the same and they are expected to shortly become operational.